

Message Text

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73

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 CEQ-02 COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04

IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEA-02 DLOS-06 ACDA-19 AGR-20

DOT-00 FMC-04 INT-08 JUSE-00 OMB-01 AEC-11 DRC-01

/200 W

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R 230930Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3350

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2197

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, ENGR, LOS, GR, TU

SUBJ: GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE OVER THE AEGEAN

REF A) ANKARA 1974; B) ANKARA 1964-NOTAL; C) ATHENS 1306-NOTAL;

D) ATHENS 1273-NOTAL; E) THESSALONIKI 135-NOTAL

SUMMARY: ACCORDING GREEK EMBOFF, GREEKS HAVE NOT AGREED TO NEGOTIATE AEGEAN DISPUTE, AND ARE CONCERNED OVER POTENTIAL TROUBLE IN GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS GENERATED BY TREATMENT OF ISSUE IN TURKISH PRESS. END SUMMARY.

1. GREEK EMBASSY OFFICER (ALEXANDROPOULOS) TOLD US ON MARCH 21 THAT GREECE HAS NOT RPT NOT YET AGREED TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH TURKEY OVER THE DIVISION OF THE CONTINENTAL
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SHELF IN THE AEGEAN. HE SAID THAT WHILE THE TURKS HAD NOT

EXPLICITLY PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS IN THEIR NOTE OF FEB 27 (REF A), GREEKS WERE AWARE OF REMARKS BY TURKISH FONMIN GUNES IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW ON MARCH 13 TO THE EFFECT THAT THE DISPUTE IN THE AEGEAN SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. GREEK VIEW, NEVERTHELESS, HAD NOT CHANGED, I.E., THEY BELIEVE THEIR POSITION IS BASED ON THE 1958 CONVENTION ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND THERE IS NOTHING TO NEGOTIATE.

2. ALEXANDROPOULOS SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE "EMOTIONAL" TREATMENT OF THE ISSUE IN THE TURKISH PRESS, AND INDICATED THIS MIGHT LEAD TO SERIOUS TROUBLE FOR GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, DESPITE THE RATHER DISPASSIONATE APPROACH TAKEN BY OFFICIALS ON BOTH SIDES. (COMMENT: ALEXANDROPOULOS MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO A MARCH 19 REPORT IN THE POPULAR DAILY GUNAYDIN TO THE EFFECT THAT THE TURKISH NAVY WOULD BE EMPLOYED TO PROTECT TURKISH EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES IN THE AEGEAN.) HE DESCRIBED PUBLIC OPINION IN GREECE AS "CALM" AND FELT THE DANGER OF A CONFRONTATION CAME FROM THE TURKISH SIDE. HE ADMITTED THAT FEELINGS IN NORTHERN GREECE, HOWEVER, WERE PROBABLY STRONGER THAN IN ATHENS (REF E).

3. COMMENT: DESPITE GUNAYDIN REPORT, WE SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT A SERIOUS CONFRONTATION IS BUILDING AT PRESENT TIME.

MACOMBER

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Message Attributes

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